

explained how such a function could be inherent. Spring 24^a appears to provide a tension limiting function, not a lifting function.

Claim 9, also rejected as anticipated by the Rice patent, has been incorporated into claim 7. There is no disclosure in the Rice patent of spring 24^a operating independently of motor 13 to raise or lower ramp 25, nor is such function inherent in the apparatus disclosed in the patent.

Claim 8, rejected as indefinite, has been amended to clarify that the force of the spring opposes the force of gravity and thereby can, in fact, aid in lowering the ramp. Claim 8 has been further amended by re-writing the claim in independent form.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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